

ROOSEVELT AND TEEVELYAN

163

episode in history, although it led absolutely
nowhere, and
as far as I can see had almost no practical
effect whatever—
beyond fixing in the minds of Chaucer and his
contempo-
raries the idea that feudal titles sat naturally
on the heroes
of old Greece.

OYSTER BAY,
June 20,
1907.

Some little time ago I received your son's
volume on
Garibaldi which you so kindly sent me. I have
been de-
lighted with it, especially because I was able
to read it in
connection with De la Gorce's 'History of the
French
Eepublic,' which in a couple of chapters gives
the French-
clerical view of the transaction. By the way, I
suppose
you are familiar with De la Gorce's 'History
of the Sec-
ond Eepublic and Second Empire/ To me it is
a most
interesting and attractive work, and the man
ranks high
among historians in spite of his pronounced
clerical sym-
pathies and his distrust of democracy.

In October, 1907, Eoosevelt received an
additional volume
of Trevelyan's ' American Revolution/ which in
acknowl-
edging, he said: "I look forward to reading it
as eagerly
as any girl ever looked forward to reading the
last volume
of a favorite novel." A few weeks later,
November 11,
1907, he wrote a letter to Trevelyan which
contains inter-
esting views of his own on some of the
personages of the
Eevolution:

"I have now read through your last
volume. It is a
little difficult to say just what I feel about

your history
without subjecting you to the discomfort
always felt by
a fastidious man when he suspects he is
overpraised. Yet
I can not refrain from expressing my sincere
opinion that
you have not only written the final history of
our Eevolu-
tion, but that you have done what is given to
so very, very
few men to do—that you have written one of
the few his-
tories which can deservedly be called great. I
do not want
to be misled by national feeling; and yet I can
not help
believing that the American Eevolution was one
of the great